the Employment Assistance Scheme (EAS) in October, 1993. Government have decided that the EAS will be universalised and extended to cover all blocks in the country in 1996-97 and 1997-98. A further boost to rural employment through rural industrialisation was sought through initiating a two million jobs scheme in the Khadi and Village Industry sector in October, 1994. The Prime Minister's Rozagar Yojana was launched earlier in October, 1993 to put in position an integrated Support Programme for promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship for the educated unemployed youth.

New Power Projects in Maharashtra

*208. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of new power projects in Maharashtra awaiting approval from Government till October, 1996 and by when these projects would be given a green signal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENU-GOPALACHARI): As on 31.10.1996, the following two new project proposals in Maharashtra were under examination in Central Electricity Authority for accord of Techno Economic Clearance:

Project	Capacity (MW)
1. Chikaldhara Pumped Storage Scheme (Hydro)	2 × 200
2. Uran GTPP Expansion (Thermal)	400

These schemes could be taken up for clearance once necessary inputs/ clearances are tied up by the Project proponents.

Ninth Self-Financing Housing Scheme, 1996

*209. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of valid and invalid applications received under the 9th Self Financing Housing Scheme, 1996;

(b) whether the draw of lot of valid applicants would be held by December, 1996;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount collected by way of initial deposits under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) to (c) The Delhi Development Authority has reported that a total of 66,577 applications have been received under the 9th Self-Financing Housing Scheme. The draw of lots is expected to be held in December, 1996 on completion of scrutiny of the applications.

(d) Rs. 332,88,50,000/-.

Diversion of LPG Cylinders for Commercial Purposes

*210. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Economic Times' dated the 1st November, 1996 under the caption "Illegal diversion of LPG on the rise;"

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that illegal diversion of LPG cylinders has been on the increase, with the connivance of dealers;

appeared in the 'Economic Times' dated the 1st November, 1996 under the caption "Illegal diversion of LPG on the rise;"

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that illegal diversion of LPG cylinders has been on the increase, with the connivance of dealers;

(c) if so, the action taken against the persons involved, including the dealers; and

(d) the steps taken to check illegal diversion and ensure timely supply of LPG cylinders to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Oil Marketing Companies have detected some instances of diversion of LPG and supply of underweight cylinders to the customers.

(c) Action against distributors for diversion of LPG to non-domestic purpose is taken as per provisions of Revised Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

(d) Checks are continuously made to detect and counter diversion of domestic LPG cylinders. In established cases suitable action under the marketing discipline guidelines, which have been made more stringent recently, as well as under the LPG Control Order is taken. Oil Companies occasionally conduct raids on unauthorised users and confiscate the cylinders, etc., and initiate action under the LPG Control Order. Action such as imposition of fine, warning, suspension and even termination is taken against errant distributors.

Desert Development Programme in Gujarat

*211. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing Desert Development Programme (DDP) in Gujarat;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have appraised the progress made by DDP in the State;

(d) if so, the outcome of such appraisal; and

(e) what steps are being contemplated by Government to make DDP a success in the State?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRAN NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Desert Development Programme (DDP) in Gujarat is under implementation in 47 blocks of 6 districts. 3 districts; namely, Banaskantha, Mehsana and Kutch are situated in hot sandy arid area and remaining 3 districts; namely, Jamnagar, Rajkot and Surendranagar in hot arid area.

From 1.4.1995, area development under this programme is being taken up on watershed basis. A watershed project of about 500 hectares should be planned and developed in four years with effective involvement of local people. The number of watershed projects targetted to be developed, total allocation, Central share of allocation and Central releases in 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under:—